type. To check the spread of this disease among children and for effective treatment of the affected patients following steps have been taken;

(i) Adequate funds and MBT drugs have been provided to the district leprosy societies. Provision of single dose Multi Drug therapy has been introduced to treat early cases.

(ii) Public awareness activities have been undertaken to make people including children aware of the facts about Leprosy.

(iii) Hidden cases have been identified through a special search activity in general pupulation including children.

Linkages of D.C.G.I. with Test Laboratories

1924. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Drugs Controller General (India) has appointed private consultants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that D.C.G.I. has personal linkages with various test laboratories for drug approvals; and

(d) if so, whether the matter has been investigated; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No such instance has come to the notice of Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No specific evidence relating to personal linkages of DCG(I) with various test laboratories for drug approvals is available with Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Laboratory Methods to Test the Quality of Drugs

1925. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are no laboratory methods to test the qualtiy of drugs, as given in the Pharmacoporia, available in the country;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to provide such facilities in Government testing labs and the charges being collected for such tests;

(c) whether private laboratories are also approved by Government for doing such tests and what are their charges for such test; and

(d) whether Government monitor these laboratories to check reliability of data; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Drug testing laboratories both in Government Sector as well as private sector undertake testing on the basis of methods prescribed in Indian Pharmacopoeia or in the pharmacopoeias in which the particular drug is listed.

(b) Pharmacopoeias may prescribe newer methods of testing, and facilities available with Government laboratories are augmented from time to time by way of additional, newer testing instruments, training to analysts, workshops etc. The fees for different tests and analyses are specified in Schedule B of Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

(c) Under the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945, private laboratories are licensed by the State Licensing Authorities. Under the Act, there is no separate provision for fixing charges for tests in such laboratories.